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Message Text

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43
ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SWF-01 OES-04 AGR-10 AID-05

OMB-01 EB-06 RSC-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02

/073 W
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R 081435Z NOV 74
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8013
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS ROME 15512

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OCON, UNWTC
SUBJ: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, CANADIAN STATEMENT TO PLENARY

1. CANADIAN STATEMENT BY ALLAN J. MAC EACHEN, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS WAS WELL RECEIVED BY CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS. HE STRESSED NEED FOR INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHERE EFFICIENT PRODUCTION OPPORTUNITIES EXIST AS LONG TERM SOLUTION TO WORLD HUNGER PROBLEM. CANADA PLEDGED TO ACCORD BUDGET PRIORITIES TO PROGRAMS UNDER THEIR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AIMED AT INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IT WILL EMPHASIZE ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHO THEMSELVES MOVE ENERGETICALLY MOBILIZE THEIR INTERNAL PRODUCTION RESOURCES AND GIVE HIGH PRIORITIES TO EFFICIENT FOOD PRODUCTION.

2. ON FOOD AID, STATEMENT STRONGLY SUPPORTED INCREASES PARTICULARLY TO MOST AFFECTED COUNTRIES, ENDORSED CONCEPT OF FORWARD PLANNING FOR FOOD AID, ACCEPTED 10 MILLION TON FIGURE AS MINIMUM LEVEL FOR WORLD FOOD AID, AGREED THAT IN ORDER TO OFFSET HIGHER PRICES, PLEDGES SHOULD BE MADE ON QUANTITATIVE BASIS RATHER THAN IN VALUE AND SUPPORTED INCREASING THE SHARE OF FOOD AID CHANNELED THROUGH MULTILATERAL CHANNELS. TO SUPPORT THE ABOVE, CANADA COMMITTED ITSELF
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TO SUPPLY 1 MILLION TONS OF FOOD GRAINS ANNUALLY FOR THE NEXT

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THREE YEARS AS A MINIMUM TARGET. ALSO, A COMMITMENT WAS MADE TO SUPPLY 20 PERCENT OF ITS FOOD AID THROUGH MULTILATERAL PROGRAMS. CANADA'S CURRENT FOOD AID SHIPMENTS TOTAL ABOUT 570,000 TONS - 495,000 UNDER THE FOOD AID CONVENTION AND 75,000 TO WFP. NEW PLEDGE OF 1 MILLION TONS ALMOST DOUBLES ITS COMMODITY CONTRIBUTION TO WORLD FOOD AID AND THE AMOUNT GOING TO MULTILATERAL PROGRAMS WILL JUMP FROM 75,000 TONS TO 200,000 TONS.

3. ON FOOD SECURITY, CANADA STRONGLY SUPPORTED BOERMA UNDERTAKING AND NOTED THEIR LONG TERM EFFORTS TO ORGANIZE A GRAINS ARRANGEMENT. STATEMENT INCLUDED REFERENCE TO NEED FOR CONSIDERABLE WORK TO BE DONE IN MAKING THE UNDERTAKING A REALITY, PARTICULARLY BY PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES CONCERNED, AND PLEDGED THAT CANADA WOULD PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THIS DEMANDING AND DETAILED WORK. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED NATIONAL CONTROL OF RESERVES, INCREASED BURDEN SHARING OF WORLD RESERVES AND NEED FOR IMPROVED INFORMATION.

4. ON TRADE, CANADA PLEDGED TO SUPPORT EFFORTS IN MTN TO OBTAIN BENEFITS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES RELATIVE TO TRADE FOR THEIR COMMODITIES.VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, MEETING REPORTS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ROME15512
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740322-0308
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741159/aaaabxsd.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 NOV 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 NOV 2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <27 NOV 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

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30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, CANADIAN STATEMENT TO PLENARY
TAGS: OCON, (MAC EACHEN, ALLAN J)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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